

Field Work on Protected Corridor to Begin

While the Turnpike Authority identifies and evaluates alternative routes for the project, field biologists will begin surveys to locate wetlands, streams, federally-protected plant and animal species, and other natural features. In addition, field personnel will be collecting data on existing historic and community resources and other features.

In the next several weeks, field personnel working with the Turnpike Authority may be present on your property to complete this survey work. Representatives of H.W. Lochner Inc. and its sub-consultants (Mulkey Engineers and Consultants, Mattson Alexander Associates and The Catena Group) are authorized to enter lands and certain structures in the study area to perform their duties under General Statute

136-89.194(d). Representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Regulatory Division, also may be present on your property for the purposes of verifying the limits of waters and wetlands pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. All representatives will wear orange safety vests, have photo identification, and may hang pink and black flags or ribbons on trees and shrubs to identify streams and wetland areas. Representatives may also use a soil auger to sample soil conditions. The auger creates a small hole, and every effort will be made to fill any holes that are created.

Schedule

The Turnpike Authority expects to release a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project in 2012. The Draft EIS likely will include a Recommended Alternative for the project. Following publication of the Draft EIS, the remaining project milestones are tentatively scheduled:

• Final Environmental Impact Statement	2013
• Record of Decision	2013
• Phase I Construction Begins*	2014
• Phase II Corridor Protection	2014
• Phase I of Southeast Connector Open to Traffic	2019

* Contingent upon availability of funds.

Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-554-7849 | E-mail: sewake@ncturnpike.org | Website: www.ncturnpike.org



WELCOME to TONIGHT’S PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP

JANUARY 27, 2010

Tonight’s workshop is to provide you information about the Triangle Expressway Southeast Connector (also known as the Southern and Eastern Wake Expressway) and answer any questions you may have about the project.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Planning studies for the Triangle Expressway Southeast Connector in Wake and Johnston counties are underway. The Southeast Connector will extend the Triangle Expressway and complete the Raleigh Outer Loop. It is being studied as a toll facility and is currently scheduled to be constructed in phases. Phase I is between NC 55 in Apex and I-40 near the Johnston County line. Phase II continues the project at I-40 and ends at US 64/US 264 Bypass in Knightdale. The entire project is nearly 28 miles long.

PROTECTED CORRIDOR

A protected corridor preserves the location of a new road from encroaching development. A protected corridor for the first phase of the Southeast Connector, between NC 55 in Apex and I-40 near the Johnston County line, was established in the mid-1990s under the Transportation Corridor Official Map Act. The Authority will evaluate that corridor, as well as other alternative routes, as part of the study process.

The included map identifies the project study area and the location of the protected corridor for Phase I. Phase II does not have a protected corridor; the alignment on the map is one potential alignment.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is critical to the highway planning process. Your active participation is welcomed and appreciated. There are several different ways you can participate and stay informed:

Participate in public workshops and events. Several series of open houses and workshops will be held throughout the study process to provide information and answer your questions about the project.

Request a small group meeting. The Turnpike Authority will meet with interested community organizations, neighborhood associations and others throughout the project’s development. Contact the Turnpike Authority to arrange a small group meeting.

E-mail, call or write. Contact the Turnpike Authority by phone, e-mail or traditional mail. (See project contact below.)

Questions?

We look forward to your continued participation in this project. Please contact the study team at any time with questions, comments or concerns:

Jennifer Harris, P.E., North Carolina Turnpike Authority
1578 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1578

Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-554-7849 | E-mail: sewake@ncturnpike.org | Website: www.ncturnpike.org

Steps in the Environmental Review Process

STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

STEP 4

STEP 5

STEP 6

STEP 7

STEP 8

WE ARE HERE

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The Southeast Connector study is being developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and includes the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will:

- **Identify and explain the purpose and need for the project.** based on existing and anticipated conditions in the project area. Clearly identifying a purpose and need for the project provides an important foundation for the rest of the study process.
- **Develop and describe possible routes for the project.** Field studies will determine the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the different routes. Possible routes are then refined to minimize negative impacts, or eliminated from consideration.
- **Identify and document the environmental consequences** of each of the remaining alternative routes in the Draft EIS. Based on the potential impacts of the possible routes, as well as public and agency comments, the Turnpike Authority will recommend a route for project.
- **Select the preferred route.** Based on engineering and environmental studies, as well as public input, the Turnpike Authority will select a route that meets the purpose and need for the project, while minimizing impacts to the natural and human environments.
- **Describe public and agency coordination efforts.** Agency and public coordination is crucial to the study process. The public will have numerous opportunities to review and comment on the project before any major decisions are made. Representatives of state and federal environmental regulatory and resource agencies will also coordinate with the Turnpike Authority and the Federal Highway Administration to review and comment on the project.
- **Document study results and decisions.** The preferred route for the project is described in the Final EIS. The Turnpike Authority will receive final approval of the project route in a Record of Decision (ROD). No construction can begin until a ROD is issued for the project.

